Sister E. Campbell

As we mentioned in the last issue of The Pioneer, Sister Campbell reached official retiring age in late August. Following is an interview between the Editor and Sister, about her impressions of her ministry in the Church Army over the past 26 years.

EDITOR *Why did you join the Church Army in the first place?*

E.C. Well, .. in my home Parish, the Rector allowed us to do things without being able to give us lot of oversight, because he was so busy. A couple of us took Sunday School, cubs and girls' clubs. But we felt inadequate.

ED. *And where was this?*

E.C. In Wagga, the Garden City of the south!

During this time, some Church Army Officers came along. Some conducted missions. One Church Army Sister was stationed at Wagga, and we became very friendly, and this helped to clinch the whole matter for me.

ED. *And you felt that this was your ministry?*

E.C. Actually, I did feel a pull between the Church Army and another organisation. But after a lot of prayer, I was convinced that it should be the Church Army.

ED. *And would you say that you felt called to the ministry of the Church in general, rather than just one parish?*

E.C. Yes.

ED. *What individual opportunities have you had to contribute to the ministry of the Church Army and of the Church in general?*

E.C. Well, seriously, every place you go to, there is an opportunity to do something - spiritual and social. When I left the College and went to my first appointment, it was a combined social service/evangelistic position. I found that getting to people's material needs, we were able to get closer to them to point out their needs from a spiritual point of view.

ED. *That's been an important part of your ministry, hasn't it?*

E.C. Yes, I think we've got to see to the material needs (not the material wants of people), and then we can minister spiritually as well.

ED. *What do you feel has been the biggest help to you, to enable you to exercise an effective ministry?*

E.C. I think it was the basic training - it gave me the feeling that I had to have more training and experience. And, as I went from place to place, this is what happened - I got experience amongst different types of people, in different situations, and at each place there was a different need.

ED. *Have you done any training since College days?*

E.C. Yes, but more recently. There weren't as many opportunities in the early days. But in the last 12 years I've had more. In one place I got quite a lot of guidance from the staff of clergy there.

ED. *What experiences stand out most in your mind?*

E.C. About three or four. When I left the College and went to Adelaide, there was a girl, about 14 or 15, She had been particularly difficult, none of us could do anything with her, and things were going from bad to worse. Anyway, we discovered later, via a psychiatrist, that the girl had been buried for at least 8 hours, under a house in England during the War, with her parents and grandparents dead beside her. This, the psychiatrist told us, was probably the cause of her behaviour. She began to respond after we realised what had happened and learned how to treat her.

In my present Parish, a young woman was right in the grip of drugs, and we had some rather nasty experiences with her and she had some nasty experiences with other people. For some reason or other whe decided she was going to trust me. She gave me a key to her house and I was able to go in and out. Many times I saw her in a state that made me almost weep, thinking she could have been my daughter or something. But with the help of a lot of other people, this lass has come right through. She's completely off drugs at the present moment, although she's just got to live from day to day and take things as they come.

ED. *And what about the girls and older people in your present Parish?*

E.C. Oh, yes. At the present moment, I'm involved with a very rewarding group of girls of primary school age. These girls are responding tremendously - both spiritually and in the things that they're doing. They visit the elderly people, make Christmas gifts for 300 - 400 of them, and deliver them. But the girls themselves are not only doing things like this, they're really responding to the Christian message.

One group of senior citizens meet regularly in my home, and they, too, have responded tremendously to the Christian challenge. They're really looking for spiritual help, prayer, meditation and Bible study. They've been helpful to the children too - assisting with the financial side of children's work and giving help many times to children and parents when they need it.

ED. *It's interesting that the incidents you just mentioned were in your first and last appointments.*

E.C. Yes, that is strange. I began and finished with the same type of work, with the same type of person and similar situations. I've got a feeling I was probably being trained up all the way through my Church Army life for the last 6 years. Because I've been involved in almost every facet of life here.

ED. *Any hopes or plans for the future?*

E.C. A holiday first!

After that, I hope to be able to continue with my girls, and the senior citizens, and then, any time I have, I hope to be able to devote to the work of the Church Army. I feel that the Church Army has given me so much, and I'd like to do something in return for the Society, now that I've got more freedom.

NEW OFFICERS

By the time you receive this issue, Lyn Russell, Barbara Leatham, and Wendy Woods will have completed their two years' training in our College, in preparation for their ministries as Evangelists in the Church Army (Lyn for Australia, and Barbara and Wendy for New Zealand). I asked them their thoughts as they prepare to go out into the field. (Editor)

"For I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power." (Philippians 4:13 - Living Bible)

I came into College not knowing if I was doing the right thing or not, but I felt a real calling from God to do full-time Christian work. God has given me the assurance that this is His calling for me. Looking back over the past two years, I can see how God has given me the strength and power to finish my training here in College. In every area of my life, while I have been here, He has given me the ability to cope with things - from having a fear of driving in the city traffic, to doing things in parish work and in College that I never thought I could do before.

All Christians are called by God to do certain aspects of evangelistic work. This is done in very many different ways. I think it is a great honour that God has called me to be a full-time Evangelist in the Church Army, and I am really looking forward to being able to go out among people and pass on to them some of the knowledge which I have gained over the past two years. And I know I can only do this in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Lyn Russell

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Two Special Announcements

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

It is not uncommon for you to read in The Pioneer from time to time about changes in the work situations of most Officers of the Church Army. However, the following two announcements will no doubt take you by surprise, and will mean the end of one era and the beginning of another for the Australian Society.

A few months ago, CAPTAIN RICHARD GWILT tendered his resignation - as Federal Secretary of the Church Army in Australia. His resignation is effective as from the 31st December, 1978. Captain Gwilt has held this position since January, 1969. He was commissioned as an Officer in October, 1951, and after a few months on the "Harold Osborn" Van, spent 18 months in the Parish of Mount Hawthorn, W.A. In January, 1954, he was appointed to Headquarters' Staff, to become Staff Officer in December of that year. The New Zealand Church Army "borrowed" him from 1964 to 1968, when he served as Director of that Society. From New Zealand he returned to take up his present position. Plans about his future ministry will be announced later.

CAPTAIN GILBERT PAGE, of the English Church Army, has accepted the Board's invitation to succeed Captain Gwilt, as from the 1st January, 1979. Captain Page is married with three children, aged 13, 10 and 7. He was commissioned in 1959, and has had two spells in the Mission Department, in addition to being on the Staff of the English Training College for two years. In the course of the last four years, he has become very well known in circles well beyond Church Army, for his gift of counselling. He has been a full-time counsellor at the C.A. Counselling Centre in London, and is widely in demand as a lecturer on counselling and related subjects.

I would ask your prayers for both of these men as they look to the future and plan and prepare for it.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA
ON MONDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 1978, AT 7.30 P.M.

THE MEETING IS BEING INCORPORATED IN OUR STAFF CONFERENCE,
AND WILL BE HELD AT
The Christian Conference Centre (Site 2),
Stanwell Tops, south of Sydney

Note: Anyone is welcome to take part in discussion, ask questions, but only elected Members may vote.

WHAT'S A MISSION WORKSHOP?

A Mission Workshop is a weekend programme involving members of Parish Council, leaders of Parish organisations, representatives from the Youth Group and other active parishioners, exploring just what it means for the Church to be 'the Body of Christ', and clarifying the role of the individual Christian in the Church's Mission.

A Workshop of this nature was held in October, at St. David's Arncliffe, N.S.W. Over the weekend four workshop sessions and one special act of worship were held. Subjects explored included "How healthy is your body?" (on the role of the Church as a supportive fellowship, enabling people to 'be the Church'); "Being the Church in the World" (on 'life-style' evangelism); "Church Growth Principles" and a final session considering the present parish life-style and where priority should lay in the future.

As a follow-up to the Mission Workshop, Arncliffe is to have a Mini Mission Weekend in March '78, when workshop participants will join with an enlarged Church Army Team for a "Reach Out" programme.

During 1978, a number of parishes have arranged to hold similar mission workshops to be followed by a "Reach Out Weekend" several months later.

THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

P.O. BOX 107, FRENCH'S FOREST, N.S.W., 2086

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THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY: The Church Army was founded in England in 1882, by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these Societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Belize, Cyprus, West Pakistan and Italy.